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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" As I said, Sir, the whole thing is being examined."

SRI K. M. SEETHI SAHIB :—" May I know whether any active consideration is being given to the request made by the islanders for establishing steamer communication between the mainland and the islands and if so, the progress that has been made in that direction, and whether the Government have considered the recommendations in the Krishnaswami Report submitted to the Government a year ago? If so, what are the initial steps taken by the Government to implement them? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" As I said, there are seven requests from these islanders of which two have already been conceded, namely, the appointment of medical officers, and the deputation of an educational officer. Medical men were deputed to the islands on 2nd April 1954 and an officer from the office of the Director of Public Instruction had been sent to enquire and submit proposals for upgrading the elementary school there. He has given his report which is under examination."

SRI KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" We had the rare privilege last year of receiving an open invitation on the floor of this House from the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue to accompany him to these islands on a visit so that we can see things for ourselves and get first-hand information about coditions existing there. May I know when the Cabinet proposes to send the Minister, with some willing Members from Malabar to study the situation obtaining there? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I can give this assurance at any rate. If the boat is sufficient enough to accommodate me, I would make a trip. I do not know if I can take others even if they are prepared to make the trip with me." (Laughter.)

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister the distance between the Laccadive Island and the mainland of India? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I think about 200 miles."

Report on the development of Laccadive and Amindivi Islands.

* 751 *Q*.—SRI M. S. MOGRAL : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) with reference to the answer to starred questions No. 75, dated 19th March 1953 and No. 8, dated 28th June 1952, whether the Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the Report of the Special Officer along with the remarks of the Collectors of Malabar and South Kanara; and

(*b*) whether the Government have taken any final decision on the report?

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) & (b) The various recommendations contained in the report of the Special Inspecting Officer are still under the examination of the departments of the Secretariat and it will take some more time before final decisions are reached. The question of laying the report on the table of the House will be considered after the final decisions are reached. The question of laying the remarks of the Collectors of South Kanara and Malabar on the report of the Special Officer on the table of the House will also be considered at that time."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" If the report of the Special Officer could not be made available even after the lapse of two years and if none of the recommendations of the Special Officer could be implemented, may I ask, is it not sheer waste of public money to appoint such special officers? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Almost all the recommendations are being examined. As I said, some of them have already been implemented. I do not see any reason why the hon. Member should think that public money has been wasted."

SRI T. ANANTHA PAI :—" It was said, when a similar question was put two years ago when we entered the Assembly Chamber, that the report was under consideration of Government. Still even after the lapse of two years, the same reply is being given now by Government. May I know whether Government will take steps to expeditiously implement such of those recommendations as they could, instead of going on considering the whole question? May I also know whether they would defer consideration of such of those questions as require clarification and serious consideration? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The examination is reaching its final stage. I think within three or four months I will be able to give a definite reply to this question."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" While we in this State are having an element of democracy, may I know why the requests of the islanders, who do not have any semblance of democracy like the panchayats or local bodies and who are governed by executive officers of this Government, have not so far received any sympathetic response at the hands of this Government? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Whereas we are governed by the Constitution of India, they want to bring their own constitution."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Will the Hon. Minister honour this island with a visit in the near future? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Certainly, Sir."